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NOTES FROM PACIFIC COAST OBSERVATORIES.

NOTE ON COMET α 1912 (GALE).

The first comet of this year was discovered September 8th by GALE at Sydney, Australia, in right ascension $13^{\text{h}} 37^{\text{m}}$ and declination $36^{\circ} 31''$ south.

From observations of the 11th, 15th, and AITKEN's of the 24th of September, we derived the orbit which has been published, with an ephemeris, in Lick Observatory Bulletin 218.

The plane of the orbit is inclined nearly 80° to the plane of the ecliptic. At the time of discovery the comet was approaching both the Earth and the Sun. It made its nearest approach to the Earth ($85\frac{1}{2}$ million miles) on the 13th of September and its nearest approach to the Sun ($66\frac{1}{2}$ million miles) will be made on October 4.96 Gr. M. T.

The comet increased in brightness after discovery and for a while was visible to the unaided eye. Its brightness attained a maximum on the 23d of September, at which time it was about 25 per cent brighter than on the 11th of September. It is moving northeast, through *Libra*, *Serpens*, and *Corona Borealis*, toward β *Draconis*. On the 5th of October it will cross the equator in right ascension $15^{\text{h}} 30^{\text{m}}$. Its position for the 27th of October, at Greenwich Mean Midnight, will be right ascension $15^{\text{h}} 59^{\text{m}}$, declination $20^{\circ} 58''$ north.

R. T. CRAWFORD,

BERKELEY ASTRONOMICAL DEPARTMENT,

E. S. HAYNES.

October 2, 1912.

ADDENDUM.

For the benefit of those who desire to observe this comet, its positions from 1912 December 10.5 to 1913 January 7.5 (Gr. M. T.) are given below:—

Publications of the Astronomical Society, &c. 271

EPHEMERIS FOR GREENWICH MEAN MIDNIGHT.

1912	True α	True δ	1912	True α	True δ
Dec. 10.5	16 ^h 43 ^m 25 ^s	+ 51° 24'.0	Dec. 26.5	17 ^h 15 ^m 09 ^s	+ 64° 06'.5
12.5	46 33	52 54.8		28.5	20 42
14.5	49 52	54 27.0	Dec. 30.5	26 50	67 26.4
16.5	53 23	56 0.6			
18.5	16 57 07	57 35.5	1913		
20.5	17 01 08	59 11.7	Jan. 1.5	33 40	69 06.8
22.5	05 26	60 49.0		3.5 41 22	70 46.8
Dec. 24.5	17 10 06	+ 62 27.4		5.5 17 50 11	72 26.4
			Jan. 7.5	18 00 24	+ 74 04.9

The comet continues its journey northward until January 25th, when it makes its nearest approach to the North Pole. It will then be within 5° 35' of the pole. After this date it will move southward.

After the first week in January it will probably be out of the reach of small telescopes. R. T. CRAWFORD.

BERKELEY ASTRONOMICAL DEPARTMENT,
November 18, 1912.

NOTE ON COMET *c* 1912 (BORRELLY).

Comet *c* 1912 was discovered November 2 by BORRELLY, of Marseille, in right ascension 17^h 47^m and declination 38° 57' north.

From observations of the 3d, 4th and 5th of November, we derived the orbit, which was published, with an ephemeris, in Lick Observatory Bulletin 221.

At the time of discovery the comet was about 87½ million miles from the Earth and was receding from both the Earth and the Sun. It made its closest approach to the Sun (102 million miles) on the 20th of October. The comet's motion is retrograde.

When discovered the comet was visible in an opera-glass, but since then its brightness has been rapidly diminishing. It is moving southeast through *Sagitta* and *Aquila*, and on November 26th will pass near *a Aquilæ*.

The following are approximate elements of the orbit:—